

22 August 2013

Dr Kushaharan Sathianathan  
Intensive Care Unit  
Melbourne Health  
Port Melbourne Vic 3207

Dear Researcher,

Research Project Application No. 13290Q: Variation in methodology in the intensive care management of comatose patients post cardiac arrest

Thank you for your email dated 13 August 2013. It is our understanding that this project is a quality assurance exercise involving collection, use and disclosure of data in a de-identified format to be conducted at Monash Health. Such data is to be accessed by a Monash Health employee only. As such, we advise that it does not raise any ethical concerns and does not fall within the category of a 'research' project within the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct In Human Research* (NHMRC, 2007). This project does not require submission to the Monash Health Human Research Ethics Committee. In addition, this quality assurance activity can be described as an activity to monitor, improve and evaluate the quality of health services provided by Monash Health.

For our record-keeping purposes, we will deem this activity will be in progress for 12 months from this date, unless we hear from you to the contrary. It will then be classified as completed.

Please note this letter only pertains to the QA activity being conducted at Monash Health. If it is intended the QA activity will be conducted at another institution appropriate review and authorisation will be required prior to commencement at another institution.

Should you have any queries please contact me on 03 9594 4090.

Yours sincerely



**JULIE GEPHART**  
HREC Coordinator  
Research Directorate

Cc: Miss Sasha Osowicki, ICU  
Ms Bev Desilva Quality Unit  
Mr Ross Major, Medical Records